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## BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS

Whistling by the assorted graveyards on the New Frontier, Vice President Lyndon Johnson announces that the communist empire is disintegrating. "The Decline and Fall of the Soviet Empire" is a nice, hypothetical subject for the No. 2 man of the administration to discuss. It diverts attention from such embarrassments as communism and soviet garrisons in Cuba, which are present actualities, not speculative matters.

Far from giving evidence of falling apart, the communist enterprise seems bent on further expansion, as Director John A. McCone of the central intelligence agency has just suggested. He said that more than 1,500 persons from every Latin American country except Uruguay are in training of have been trained in subversion, sabotage, and guerrilla warfare in Cuba. They are to return home and apply their lessons.

Yet Mr. Johnson found "clear and growing evidence that influences are now at work within the communist world which may well break the bonds with which the Communists have shackled both themselves and the people they rule."

No one would be more delighted if this were to prove true than the CHICAGO TRIBUNE. But in the 46 years since the bolshevik revolution, we have yet to observe a restive people capable of overturning a regime which holds all the weapons and coercive power. We commend to the Vice President's attention the judgment pronounced by Allen Dulles, former director of the C. I. A., on the possibility of successful revolt against an entrenched communist regime: "I know of no estimate that a spontaneous uprising of the unarmed population of Cuba would succeed." Mr. McCone concurs in this judgment.

The East German rising of 1953 and the Hungarian rebellion of 1956 support the conclusion. The Russians, except for an occasional sporadic riot, have never even made the attempt.

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